

MMTC Gold Plundered by Exporters

6692. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "1300 kg. gold plundered by exporters the Great MMTC RIPOFF-1" appeared in the 'Pioneer' dated March 12, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to curb such activities prevailed in MMTC and recovered the gold amount from the exporters or from the official found their direct involvement in such cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) MMTC supplied gold to jewellery units in EOUs/EPZs and in Domestic Tariff Area under the schemes of the Chapter VIII of the Exim Policy 1992-97. It has been reported by MMTC that out of 77355 kgs of gold supplied to the jewellery exporters since 1988-89 upto 15.11.96, 19 exporters in BOUs/EPZs have defaulted for 265 kgs and 4 exporters in DTA have defaulted for 36 kgs of gold under the schemes. The report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ending 31st March'96 has also reported that Foreign Exchange amounting to Rs. 57.65 crores remained unrealised in respect of Gem & Jewellery exports. Government has initiated action for verification of facts and for remedial measures. All these cases have also been referred to various investigating agencies including CBI, DRI and DGFT. MMTC has also initiated steps to take action against lapses by its officials, if any. To prevent reoccurrence of such incidents, the Government had appointed a high level committee in August '95 and the relevant recommendations made by this committee have also been implemented. Government had also appointed an Inter-Ministerial Group on 22.3.96 to oversee and take action against the exporters of gold jewellery who have committed irregularities. In order to further reduce the possibilities of misuse of facility under the schemes of Exim Policy, the Government has made a number of changes in the new Exim Policy (1997-2002) including furnishing of bank guarantee of 100% value of gold obligatory for exporters of gold jewellery.

Equity Participation of MMTC in KSSCL

6693. SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has sent any request to the Union Government for equity participation of Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation with Kerala State Salicylates and Chemicals Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In 1995, Ministry of Commerce had received a proposal from State Government of Kerala regarding equity participation by MMTC with M/s. Kerala State Salicylates and Chemicals Ltd. (KSSCL) and marketing assistance to it for export of Salicylic Acid. The matter was taken up with MMTC who advised that they were in touch with M/s. KSSCL for export of Aspirin. MMTC had explored possibilities for exporting this product through its foreign offices which reported that as of now there was not adequate scope for export of Aspirin. MMTC do not consider this to be a commercially viable proposal.

Chief Justices of High Courts

6694. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of High Courts which have Chief Justices belonging to outside from their respective States as on date; and

(b) whether the Government propose to implement this policy in all the High Courts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) As on date, the High Courts of Allahabad, Andhra Pradesh, Bombay, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Punjab & Haryana and Rajasthan are having Chief Justices from outside High Courts. The remaining 7 High Courts of Calcutta, Delhi, Gauhati, Gujarat, Madras, Patna and Sikkim are having acting Chief Justices at present.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Energy From Waste

6695. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU :
SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH :

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to provide 50% of the project cost to set up a plant for generating energy from wastes;
- (b) if so, the guidelines in this regard;
- (c) whether a Seminar on energy from wastes was held in Ranchi during March, 1997;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (e) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Union Government for setting up such plants;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; location-wise;
- (g) the quantum of wastes is required to generate one MW of electricity; and
- (h) the sources thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Govt. of India in the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources have launched a "National Programme on Energy Recovery from Urban, Municipal & Industrial Wastes", with provision of various fiscal and financial incentives. The financial incentives include an investment subsidy of 50% of the promoter's direct equity stake in the project, subject to a maximum of Rs. 1 crore/MW, for projects for generating energy from urban, and industrial wastes. Guidelines for Waste to Energy projects are given in the attached Statement.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Seminar has created awareness amongst policy planners, Urban Local Bodies/State Nodal Agencies, project developers/promoters, financial institutions & NGOs, about the potential and possibilities of generating energy from wastes and about the programme of this Ministry on "Recovery of energy from Urban and Industrial Waste."

(e) and (f) A 5MW power generating plant from the garbage of Chennai City costing Rs. 19.0 crores has been sanctioned by the Ministry. One project of 0.5 MW from a landfill site at Lucknow costing Rs. 6.1 crores and another project of 2 MW power generation from biogas at SOM

Distillery, Bhopal costing Rs. 14.07 crores, have been received by the Ministry for consideration.

(g) and (h) Depending upon composition of wastes, about 100-150 tonnes per day of Urban & Municipal waste is required to generate one MW of electricity. Industries, Urban Local Bodies, Municipal Authorities are the main sources of such wastes.

Statement

Guidelines for Waste to Energy Projects

1. The eligible promoter intending to avail the incentives under this scheme may submit initial profile as per prescribed format to MNES for information.
2. The promoter is free to select the financial institution and interact directly with them for loan/lease finance. If so desired by the promoter, a Letter of Intent with stipulated conditions, if any, could be issued by MNES to enable him to negotiate with the financial institution for the loan.
3. The responsibility for obtaining all clearances from the local bodies/statutory authorities, if any, will rest with the promoter.
4. The choice of technology, suited for specific wastes or mix of wastes and/or certification of its suitability shall be sole responsibility of the promoter/investor.
5. The appraisal of the draft proposal/TEFR/DPR as carried out by the leading Financial Institution will be acceptable to this Ministry and will be considered by the Ministry under this scheme subject to the availability of funds. This Ministry may also undertake such appraisal independently, in-house or by associating consultants, wherever felt necessary.
6. After the project details have been finalised and the funding pattern has been tied up with financial institution (s), the promoter will forward his request on the prescribed format for grant of incentive(s) applicable under the scheme. On receipt of such requests, the case will be processed by the Govt. reserving the right to reject/negotiate with the promoters and/or the financial institution(s) to further improve upon the financial pattern so proposed for according